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April 23, 1956

Members of the Task Force Listed Below

Subject: Minutes of First Meeting

The first meeting of the Task Force of the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Publication, appointed to study certain security problems in connection with the publication of maps and charts, was held in Room 6243, GSA Building at 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 19, 1956. Attendance was as follows:

Mr. Gerald Fitzgerald, Geological Survey, **CHAIRMAN**

Mr. E. S. Haasle, Jr., Forest Service

Capt. W. F. Royall, JCS, PMS

Mr. Francis Witkege, Geological Survey

Mr. Arthur Striker, Geological Survey

Mr. John G. Smith, Jr., OSI, Dept. of Commerce

Capt. E. R. McCarthy, Coast & Geodetic Survey

Capt. I. E. Rittenburg, Coast & Geodetic Survey

Following a few opening remarks by the Chairman, it was decided that the Geological Survey, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Forest Service would briefly state their distribution policies and summarize their sales.

Mr. Fitzgerald gave the following information pertaining to the Geological Survey:

All maps published by the Geological Survey may be purchased by the public from various offices and about 400 commercial retail outlets. Distribution is now made of approximately 18,000 individual topographic maps and total distribution is now surpassing 3,000,000 copies annually. Copies of the maps are also available for reference purposes at approximately 250 depository libraries located throughout the United States.

In order that distribution of Geological Survey topographic maps may be made without restriction, they are published as unclassified documents. To accomplish this, arrangements have been made with the Department of Defense and Atomic Energy Commission for a security review prior to publication, of each map which might contain classified information.

All maps -- all Divisions approximately 4,000,000 per year. About 90% of all maps distributed are Topographic Division. About 90% of all Topographic Division maps distributed are standard topographic quadrangles. The balance of 10% consists of various base maps,

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indexes, 1:250,000 scale maps, etc. More than one half of all standard topographic quadrangles distributed are 1:24,000 scale. Total quantity of maps in stock is about 30,000,000. In the total quantity, there are about 20,000 different maps of which about 18,000 are topographic quadrangles.

Distribution of all maps in the last few years has increased as follows:

	1954 1955 1956 1957	Orders per year
Fiscal 1954	2,400,000	110,000
1955	2,300,000	195,000
1956 (estimated)	2,800,000	210,000
1957 (estimated)	2,400,000	235,000

Captain Rittenburg spoke for the Coast and Geodetic Survey:

For many years Coast and Geodetic Survey regulations prohibited the inclusion of detailed information on the general charts concerning military installations. The ADC has full control of the information to be shown on general charts. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that any classified information would be contained in these two series of charts. Charts are distributed to the general public by the Coast and Geodetic Survey through its District Offices and through its nautical and aeronautical agents. The Bureau is in full compliance with State Department's directives regarding sales to citizens of the U.S.S.R.

During 1955 a total of 758,000 nautical charts were distributed as follows: 275,000 to the military — 483,000 to the general public and other Federal agencies. 42,700,000 aeronautical charts were distributed as follows: 37,000,000 to the military — 5,700,000 to the general public.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey believes that if nautical and aeronautical charts were classified, vital information would be withheld from the chart user, which in many cases would result in serious accidents, not only to the individuals using the charts but also to the installations, such as cables, pipelines, etc., protection of which is essential.

Mr. Massie presented the map information for the Forest Service, stating that most of their issues were for their own administrative use and that total annual sales to the public amounted to approximately \$450.00.

Mr. Fitzgerald and Captain Rittenburg described the current practices in their agencies with respect to denying sale of maps and charts to countries of the Soviet Bloc.

Considerable discussion followed the presentation of these data, and it appears that the civil agencies are doing everything possible to protect

strategic information in the publication of maps and charts short of imposing a security classification on maps and charts.

Representatives of the defense and security agencies were requested to inform the chairman of any suggestions their agencies might have as to how the civil agencies could assist them in what they are doing today. It was also recognized that if a security classification were to be assigned to maps and charts that are made available to the public, the decision would have to come from the highest government sources and not from this task force.

A general discussion was held concerning geodetic control data. Practices of the totalitarian countries were described and compared to United States practices. Some questions were raised as to whether or not greater harm would be done to the United States security by classifying these data than by its possible use by a potential enemy. No decisions were reached, but it was decided to continue our efforts first to the proper handling of maps and charts.

The task force adjourned at 11:00 a.m. and the next meeting will be scheduled by the chairman at some future date.

  
Captain, CGCS  
Secretary